EXCISE (b1)

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ACTION SS-30
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☒ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS B-1

Date: 19 July 82

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TEL AVIV 09198
EXDIS
NIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE
E.O. 12065: RDS-3,4 6/10/96 (LEWIS, SAMUEL W.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, IS, IZ
SUBJECT: LABOR ATTEMPTS TO COUNTER BEGIN'S IRAQI COUP
REF: TEL AVIV 9137
1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
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2. SUMMARY

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3. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE IRAQI NUCLEAR REACTOR BY THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE AND WORLDWIDE REACTION THERETO CONTINUES TO DOMINATE ALL OTHER ISSUES IN ISRAEL. THE NEWS IS FLOODED WITH DETAILS OF THE TECHNICAL EXECUTION OF THE RAID AS THEY ARE RELEASED AND WITH THE GENERALLY UNFAVORABLE REACTIONS FROM OVERSEAS. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HELD A LONG PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY (SEPTEL) AT WHICH HE COUNTERATTACKED AGAINST FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CRITICS WITH EVEN MORE THAN HIS NORMALLY FULSOME MEASURE OF MELO-

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IRAMA. [redacted] B-1

4. [redacted]

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IN AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED YESTERDAY, ALIGNMENT CALLED FOR "THE HELM OF STATE (TO) BE REMOVED FROM LIKUD CONTROL, BECAUSE GOVERNMENT DECISIONS INCREASE OUR FEAR THAT ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND POLITICAL JUDGMENT CANNOT BE RELIED UPON."

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5. [redacted]

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GOVERNMENT SOURCES QUOTED IN HA'ARETZ SAW THE U.S. POSITION AS HYPOCRITICAL, IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT WHEN THE U.S. WAS THREATENED BY THE STATIONING OF NUCLEAR MISSILES IN CUBA, PRESIDENT KENNEDY DID NOT HESITATE IN DANGEROUSLY CONFRONTING THE RUSSIANS.

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A HA'ARETZ EDITORIAL EXPRESSED THE HOPE AND WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION IN JERUSALEM THAT "AFTER RECOVERING FROM THE INITIAL SURPRISE AND AFTER HAVING

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DUTIFULLY VOICED ITS UNEQUIVOCAL RESERVATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ARAB WORLD, THE USA WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE AGGRESSORS WERE THOSE ABOUT TO BEGIN PRODUCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST A DECLARED TARGET AND NOT THE PARTY THAT REFUSED TO BE A PASSIVE TARGET FOR OUTRIGHT EXTERMINATION."

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ACTION SS-30
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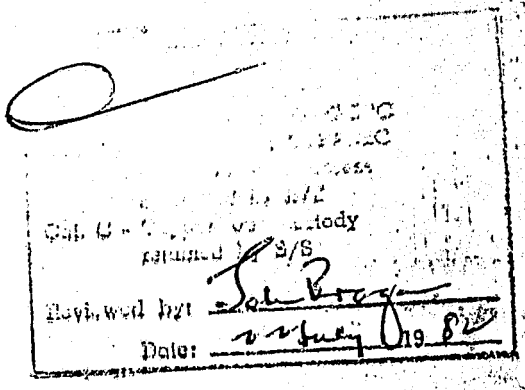

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[redacted] IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL TODAY, MA'ARIV LAMBASTED THE ALIGNMENT FOR "DOING THE SAME THING IT IS ACCUSING THE GOVERNMENT OF: USING AN OPERATION WHICH WAS VITAL, AND WHICH IT WOULD HAVE DECIDED UPON ITSELF, HAD IT BEEN IN POWER, IN ORDER TO CONDEMN A POLITICAL RIVAL ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS. BY MAINTAINING THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO POSTPONE THE ATTACK FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND THAT ALL OF THE

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POLITICAL MEANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE ACQUISITION OF A NUCLEAR POTENTIAL BY IRAQ SHOULD FIRST HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED, MA'ARIV SAYS, "THE OPPOSITION REINFORCES THE CRITICISM BY FRIENDS AND FOES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IT PROVIDES THE DEBATES IN WASHINGTON, THE FORTHCOMING ARGUMENT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE CONDEMNATIONS IN PARLIAMENT AND THE HOSTILE PRESS ARTICLES WITH ANTI-ISRAELI MATERIAL."

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DECISION TO [redacted] REGRETS ITS [redacted] BUT AS LABOR MK DA[redacted] TH THE POLLS GOING THE W[redacted] AND THERE; WE HAD TO DO[redacted] ENI COMMENT. LEWIS

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